

HOUSE BILL NO. 4478

April 27, 2023, Introduced by Reps. Martus, Shannon, Byrnes, Skaggs, Wilson, Hoskins, Neeley, Roth, Morse, Brabec, McKinney, Snyder, O'Neal and Witwer and referred to the Committee on Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending section 224 (MCL 257.224), as amended by 2018 PA 656.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 224. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act
2 regarding tabs or stickers, upon registering a vehicle, the
3 secretary of state shall issue to the owner 1 registration plate.

4 (2) A registration plate ~~shall~~**must** display the registration
5 number assigned to the vehicle for which the registration plate is
6 issued; the name of this state, which may be abbreviated; and when

1 the registration plate expires, which may be shown by a tab or
2 sticker furnished by the secretary of state.

3 (3) A registration plate issued for motor vehicles owned and
4 operated by this state; a state institution; a municipality; a
5 privately incorporated, nonprofit volunteer fire department; or a
6 nonpublic, nonprofit college or university of this state does not
7 expire at any particular time but must be renewed when the
8 registration plate is worn out or is illegible. This registration
9 plate must be assigned upon proper application and payment of the
10 applicable fee and may be used on any eligible vehicle titled to
11 the applicant if a written record is kept of the vehicles upon
12 which the registration plate is used. The written record ~~shall~~**must**
13 state the time the registration plate is used on a particular
14 vehicle. The record ~~shall be~~**is** open to inspection by a law
15 enforcement officer or a representative of the secretary of state.

16 (4) A registration plate issued for a vehicle owned by the
17 ~~civil air patrol~~**Civil Air Patrol** as organized under 36 USC 40301
18 to 40307; a vehicle owned by a nonprofit organization and used to
19 transport equipment for providing dialysis treatment to children at
20 camp; an emergency support vehicle used exclusively for emergencies
21 and owned and operated by a federally recognized nonprofit
22 charitable organization; a vehicle owned and operated by a
23 nonprofit food pantry or nonprofit food bank; a vehicle owned and
24 operated by a nonprofit veterans center; a motor vehicle having a
25 truck chassis and a locomotive or ship's body that is owned by a
26 nonprofit veterans organization and used exclusively in parades and
27 civic events; ~~a vehicle owned and operated by a nonprofit recycling~~
28 ~~center or a federally recognized nonprofit conservation~~
29 ~~organization until December 31, 2000;~~ a motor vehicle owned and

1 operated by a senior citizen center; and a registration plate
2 issued for buses including station wagons, carryalls, or similarly
3 constructed vehicles owned and operated by a nonprofit parents'
4 transportation corporation used for school purposes, parochial
5 school, society, church Sunday school, or other grammar school, or
6 by a nonprofit youth organization or nonprofit rehabilitation
7 facility ~~shall~~**must** be issued upon proper application and payment
8 of the applicable tax provided in section 801(1)(g) or (h) to the
9 applicant for the vehicle identified in the application. The
10 vehicle ~~shall~~**must** be used exclusively for activities of the school
11 or organization and ~~shall~~**must** be designated by proper signs
12 showing the school or organization operating the vehicle. The
13 registration plate expires on December 31 in the fifth year
14 following the date of issuance. The registration plate may be
15 transferred to another vehicle upon proper application and payment
16 of a \$10.00 transfer fee.

17 (5) The department shall offer a standard design registration
18 plate that complies with the requirements of this act. The standard
19 design registration plate ~~shall~~**must** be of a common color scheme
20 and design that is made of fully reflectorized material and ~~shall~~
21 **must** be clearly visible at night. **Within 1 year after sufficient**
22 **funding is appropriated, the department shall use a digital**
23 **printing method to create all standard design registration plates.**
24 **The department shall solicit competitive bids for the system design**
25 **for the digital printing method. The competitive bidding process**
26 **must comply with the requirements for the competitive solicitation**
27 **of bids as provided in section 261 of the management and budget**
28 **act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1261, and the competitive bid**
29 **specifications must include, but not be limited to, all of the**

1 following:

2 (a) A requirement for the procurement of services and
3 materials from more than 1 source.

4 (b) A requirement that the digital printing method must not be
5 designed around a single or specific product, piece of major
6 equipment or machinery, specific patented design, or proprietary
7 process, unless required by principles of sound engineering
8 practice and approved in writing by the department.

9 (c) A provision for the training of the current labor force by
10 the contractor on using, repairing, and maintaining any necessary
11 equipment or machinery for the digital printing method.

12 (d) A provision that the system design for the digital
13 printing system be capable of working with the existing
14 functionality of current products and equipment used by the
15 department of corrections for registration plates.

16 (6) No later than ~~1 year after the effective date of the~~
17 ~~amendatory act that amended this section, March 29, 2020,~~ the
18 department shall permit the registrant of a vehicle to display a
19 digital registration plate in lieu of the standard design
20 registration plate described in subsection (5). As used in this
21 subsection "digital registration plate" means an electronic display
22 that is mounted on the rear of a vehicle in place of a registration
23 plate issued by the secretary of state. Any data collected by the
24 department or by a vendee selected by the department through the
25 use of digital registration plates is the property of the
26 department. Any use of data collected through the use of a digital
27 registration plate is nonexclusive and is governed by this act.

28 (7) The department may use the Pure Michigan brand or a
29 successor or similar brand that is used in conjunction with this

1 state's promotion, travel, and tourism campaigns or marketing
2 efforts as part of the standard design for registration plates.

3 (8) The registration plate and the required letters and
4 numerals on the registration plate ~~shall~~**must** be of sufficient size
5 to be plainly readable from a distance of 100 feet during daylight.
6 The secretary of state may issue a tab or tabs designating the
7 month and year of expiration.

8 (9) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the
9 secretary of state shall issue for every passenger motor vehicle
10 rented without a driver the same type of registration plate as the
11 type of registration plate issued for private passenger vehicles.
12 This subsection does not apply to a special registration plate
13 issued for a vehicle in a fleet under section 801h.

14 (10) A person shall not operate a vehicle on the public
15 highways or streets of this state displaying a registration plate
16 other than the registration plate issued for the vehicle by the
17 secretary of state, except as provided in this chapter for
18 nonresidents, or by assignment as provided in subsection (3).

19 (11) The registration plate displayed on a vehicle registered
20 on the basis of elected gross weight ~~shall~~**must** indicate the
21 elected gross weight for which the vehicle is registered.

22 (12) ~~Beginning on January 1, 2015, a~~**A** registration plate
23 issued by the department under this section ~~shall~~**must** not be
24 renewed 10 years after the date that registration plate was issued.
25 The owner of a vehicle whose registration plate is ~~no longer~~**not**
26 eligible for renewal under this subsection must obtain a
27 replacement registration plate upon payment of the fee required
28 under section 804. For any alphanumeric series that the department
29 has retired from circulation, upon request of the owner of a

1 vehicle whose registration plate is ~~no longer~~**not** eligible for
2 renewal under this subsection, the department may issue a new
3 registration plate with the same registration number as was
4 displayed on the expired registration plate as provided under
5 section 803b.

6 **(13) As used in this section, "digital printing method" means**
7 **a method of creating a registration plate that is digitally printed**
8 **and laminated to an aluminum substrate.**